

Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program Implementation Guidance

Title IX of the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Act (Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account) of 2000 appropriated funds to the Secretary of the Interior to provide grants to States and U.S. Territories to enhance fish and wildlife conservation and restoration. A copy of this Title is attached as Appendix 1. This Act provides for \$50 million in FY2001 by creating and authorizing a subaccount under the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act for a Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program (WCRP), a formula-based apportionment to the States and Territories similar to that in the existing Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration programs. These funds are to be used for wildlife conservation, wildlife conservation education, and wildlife-associated recreation projects.

While a Notice of Intent was published in January in the Federal Register, it was subsequently determined that no new rules or regulations needed to be promulgated to implement this specific program. Subsequently, on March 5, the Director of the FWS officially announced this new program through a letter to State (includes Territories wherever used) Directors. Enclosed with this letter were provisions for establishing eligibility and draft apportionments. A copy of this entire package is included as Appendix 2 (apportionments were substituted for draft apportionments). During the last several weeks, the Division of Federal Aid has been working with State Directors, State Federal Aid Coordinators, and State Wildlife Diversity/Nongame program chiefs to provide additional guidance to facilitate implementation of this program.

States are required to submit WCRP Comprehensive Plans to the Director of the FWS to establish eligibility. These Comprehensive Plans must include: (1) identification of the designated State fish and wildlife agency and substantiation of its responsibility and authority to develop and implement a Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program; (2) provisions for the development and implementation of wildlife conservation, wildlife-associated recreation and wildlife conservation education projects; (3) provisions to ensure public participation in the development, revision, and implementation of projects and programs; (4) acknowledgment of the responsibility for the State to complete and implement a Wildlife Conservation Strategy within five years; and (5) a description of public involvement in preparing the Comprehensive Plan or elements that are included within the Plan.

States are encouraged to submit their Comprehensive Plans by April 16, but Plans will be accepted after this date. An Eligibility Determination Team has been established which intends to meet on at least three occasions from early April to early May to review Plans and to determine State eligibility. This Team will immediately converse with a State/Territory Federal Aid Coordinator by telephone if further information is necessary for a positive eligibility determination to be made. States will be informed of their eligibility in writing with a copy of this determination sent to the appropriate Regional Federal Aid Office.

Once a State is determined to be eligible for funding, it may submit Applications for Federal Assistance, Grant Agreements and associated documents to the appropriate Federal Aid Division in each of its respective Regional Offices for review and approval. It is suggested that each State should follow up on its commitment to develop a Wildlife Conservation Strategy by informing the Regional Office of its anticipated time line. In general, States may submit grants for wildlife conservation, wildlife conservation education, and wildlife-associated recreation; but no more than 10 percent of a State's apportionment may be allocated to recreation.

No new program rules or regulations will be advanced prior to implementation, since this is a subaccount of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration program. Wildlife Restoration program rules remain in effect unless explicitly otherwise dealt with by the legislative language in Title IX (for example, stated prohibitions against enforcement of game and fish laws, public relations for the purpose of promoting the agency, stocking of game animals for the sole purpose of providing hunting, etc. will remain in effect).

We anticipate that States will submit grants for many WCRP activities not previously considered allowable under the Sport Fish Restoration or Wildlife Restoration grant programs. As with these other Federal Aid Grant programs, the States must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act and other applicable federal laws and regulations in the use of these funds. State and Federal Aid program leaders agree that WCRP grant documents should include descriptions of each project's purpose and need, objectives, approach, time line, cost, location(s) and the expected benefits/deliverables.

A series of questions and answers (Q & As) regarding this new program follows. The questions were provided by both State and Federal staff. We hope that these will be helpful to persons involved with implementation and management of the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program. Additional or follow-up questions should be directed to Federal Aid Chiefs in the FWS Regional Offices or to Kris LaMontagne, Chief of the Division of Federal Aid. Following the Q & As are some basic Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program grant options, and two appendices referenced earlier and in the Q & As.

The Washington Office of Federal Aid hopes to place this information on the Federal Aid website in the near future. In addition, a small group of Federal Aid and State program staff anticipate holding three or four workshops this spring to discuss State grant options and program implementation.

WCR Program Implementation Questions and Answers

To improve the readability of this document, the following abbreviations are utilized:

WCRP = Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program

WR = Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act

SFR = Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act

FA = Federal Aid

WO = Federal Aid Washington/Arlington Office

RO = Federal Aid Regional Office

Comp Plan = WCRP Comprehensive Plan

WCRP Comprehensive Plan

Q1. Does a State have to submit a Comp Plan by April 16? What happens if it does not?

A. April 16 is only a target date for submission of Comp Plans and was established to facilitate speedy implementation of this program. The State must, however, submit a Comp Plan and have it approved before it is eligible for grant approval and project funding.

Q2. What is the difference between a WCRP Comp Plan and the Comprehensive Management System option for FA funding?

A. The WCRP Comp Plan is a single document required for a State to submit to become eligible for accessing WCRP funds. The Comprehensive Management System option for FA program funding is an integrated system of management processes for the development, implementation and evaluation of State fish and wildlife agency objectives, problems/issues or opportunities, and strategies.

Q3. What criteria will be used for the approval of Comp Plans?

A. A State Representative, an IAFWA representative, WO staff, and staff from ROs will review the WCRP Comp Plans to determine eligibility. Through use of internally developed group criteria, this Eligibility Determination Team will review the Comp Plans to ensure the provisions required by the Act are met.

Q4. Where should Comp Plans be sent and who will approve them?

A. The State WCRP Comp Plans, to determine program eligibility, should be sent to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Aid, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 140, Arlington, VA 22203. The Eligibility Determination Team described in Q3 will make recommendations to the FWS Director, who will inform the States directly of their eligibility with a copy sent to the appropriate RO. The States will then work directly with the ROs during the submission and approval of grants process.

Q5. Must a State gain public involvement after they have prepared their Comp Plan but before it is submitted, or is public participation in the development of the Comp Plan what is intended?

A. Public involvement/participation in constructing the Comp Plan is required by statute. This public involvement may have occurred prior to the passage of the law, or more recently, and still be judged as satisfying the basic requirements of the law. A State must simply affirm that public involvement helped generate the Plan.

Q6. Must a state agency have full authority for all fauna to be eligible for WCRP funding?

A. A State wildlife agency will be eligible to receive WCRP funds for activities compatible with its authority under State law. Other entities with some or all of the responsibilities for eligible programs, such as wildlife recreation, may be sub grantees of the State wildlife agency.

WCRP Wildlife Conservation Strategy

Q7. How should the scope of a given state program be defined – is a single Wildlife Conservation Strategy and/or Wildlife Conservation Program to embrace all internal and external beneficiaries or stakeholders?

A. The scope should be statewide, with integrated public input. States may use contracting or subgrants to stakeholders to implement their WCRP (all contractors or subgrantees must comply with applicable federal regulations).

Q8. Must FA approve the State's Wildlife Conservation Strategy, or just acknowledge that it exists?

A. To comply with the statute, a State must agree to develop and implement a Wildlife Conservation Strategy within five years. While the Act spells out what is to be included in a Wildlife Conservation Strategy, it does not suggest an approval process.

Q9. Is there a universal format for the WCRP Wildlife Conservation Strategy to facilitate interstate comparisons and/or reporting?

A. No, though it is anticipated that additional guidance will ultimately be developed with FA working cooperatively with the States. FAIMS (Federal Aid Information Management System) will provide a basic reporting system on a project format.

Q10. Will FA expect the States to produce a WCRP Wildlife Conservation Strategy if no additional funding is provided in subsequent years for this program?

A. To be eligible for funds, each state must agree to develop and begin to implement a Wildlife Conservation Strategy within five years. FA will expect each State to undergo a good faith effort to develop this product. No one can predict at this time whether funds will be available to assist States in their efforts to complete the development of or implement this Strategy.

Definitions

Q11. Did this new legislation change the definition of terms and eligibility standards for the standard (old) WR Program projects and activities?

A. No. The new definitions of wildlife, wildlife conservation education, wildlife restoration project, etc. only apply to the new Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program.

Q12. What is considered “education” and what is considered “recreation” under the law? How should the two be distinguished from one another?

A. In the legislation, wildlife-education is broadly defined as “projects, including public outreach, intended to foster responsible natural resource stewardship.” It is envisioned that this would include activities that provide enhanced understanding of wildlife, their associated habitats, and their stewardship and management, as well as understanding the impacts or potential impacts of wildlife-associated recreation. The “public outreach” element would include efforts to establish and improve communication with various persons and organizations regarding the wildlife conservation and restoration program.

In the legislation, wildlife-associated recreation was defined as “projects intended to meet the demand for outdoor activities involved with wildlife including, but not limited to hunting and fishing, wildlife observation and photography, such projects as construction or restoration of wildlife viewing areas, observation towers, blinds, platforms, land and water trails, water access, field trialing, trail heads, and access for such projects.” Such activities must be compatible with the conservation and sustainability of wildlife.

Q13. What is the legal meaning of “species of greatest conservation need?”

A. There is no legal definition beyond that which is apparent to the State fish and wildlife agency. The species are to be fauna, and not flora. The Act gives the total responsibility for defining those wildlife species to the States. This determination must be made by a State within its Wildlife Conservation Strategy.

Q14. For the WCRP, how will public outreach be defined?

A. As with the WR Program, public outreach is encouraged to increase public awareness and understanding of the Program, its goals, and its accomplishments. Public relations, which include agency promotion, revenue producing activities, or the establishment and dissemination of regulations, are not eligible for funding. Outreach can include both the collection (e.g. surveys of public understanding) and distribution (e.g. materials produced to promote public understanding) of wildlife conservation and restoration issues and the role of FA.

Eligibility

Q15. What changes to the WR program occurred due to legislative language in the WCRP?

A. None, except for the creation of the WCRP subaccount.

Q16. Does the WCRP language require WR funds to be available for use for other than wild birds and mammals?

A. No, the new legislative language in this Act applies only to the new WCRP and fund source, and not to the Pittman-Robertson excise tax account and WR program.

Q17. Are all activities currently eligible under the existing WR program also eligible under WCRP?

A. Yes, and many more. Each State will determine what its unmet needs and priorities are for the use of these new funds.

Q18. Can WCRP funds be used to pay for costs associated with publication and dissemination of wildlife regulations?

A. No, there was no indication that WCRP was intended to rescind the WR program ruling in regard to the eligibility of this activity.

Q19. What law enforcement activities are eligible under WCRP?

A. None, though State wildlife agency law enforcement personnel often work on approvable WCRP activities such as wildlife conservation education.

Q20. What role does FWS envision for Indian tribes in the WCRP?

A. Indian tribes may participate through each State in the same fashion as they currently do for the WR program. There are no apportionments made directly to Indian tribes.

Q21. Could some or all of a State's previous planning efforts and outcomes qualify as its WCRP Wildlife Conservation Strategy?

A. Yes, the WCRP Wildlife Conservation Strategy will likely involve prior, current, and continuing planning efforts.

Q22. Can WCRP funds be used for trapper education?

A. Yes. The term "wildlife conservation education" is defined in the Act as "projects, including public outreach, intended to foster natural resource stewardship" (Sec. 902 (c)). Each State will determine its own needs and priorities, including those within the wildlife conservation education arena.

Q23. What are the constraints for using WCRP funds to address issues of "nuisance wildlife" and wildlife damage?

A. WCRP funds may be used to address issues of nuisance wildlife and wildlife damage in the context of a State's overall Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program. The definition of "conservation" used in this Act includes "wildlife damage management."

Q24. Can WCRP funds be used to cover costs of environmental review, habitat evaluation, permit (e.g., Section 404) review, and similar regulatory functions?

A. Yes, if these costs relate directly to wildlife conservation, wildlife conservation education, or wildlife-associated recreation.

Q25. Can States fund any boating education or off-road vehicle use education with WCRP funds?

A. If a primary objective for such education programs were to provide additional protection to or education about wildlife species or wildlife habitat, then this type of activity could be eligible for funding.

Q26. Lands purchased with WR and SFR funds typically have been provided for fish and wildlife habitat, and hunting and fishing. May States accommodate new WCRP recreation and education activities on these same properties without violating this trust?

A. Yes, as long as there is no conflict with or detriment to the purposes or activities for which the property was originally purchased.

Q27. Are there any restrictions on the use of WCRP funds for wildlife-associated recreation and wildlife conservation education related to hunting and fishing?

A. There is a limitation of 10% of the funds to be used for wildlife-associated recreation. The purpose for the WCRP is to fulfill unmet needs, and the priority is for species with greatest conservation needs. The needs will be identified by the State with adequate justification in its WCRP project submissions and ultimately in its Wildlife Conservation Strategy. It is important to note that WCRP funds may not be used for education efforts, projects, or programs that promote or encourage opposition to the regulated taking of wildlife. (Sec. 902 (g)).

Q28. Can existing State WR/SFR focused employees administer all WCRP program areas/activities, or just those that would be eligible under WR/SFR?

A. Yes, all of them. Approved staff costs are eligible when appropriate and proportionate charges are allocated to each program.

Q29. Does the WCRP legislative language change any of the impacts of the Federal Aid Improvement Act such as use of administrative funds by FA for outreach activities?

A. The WCRP legislative language does not change any direction provided in the FA Improvement Act other than adding available dollars to administer this new program. Therefore, restrictions on how funds may be used by FA remain as stated in the Federal Aid Improvement Act.

Q30. How will the States determine which of the WCRP eligible activities will be funded, and at what levels?

A. This decision will be up to each individual State to determine for itself.

Q31. Will State costs incurred to put together its WCRP Wildlife Conservation Strategy be reimbursable?

A. Yes, the development and implementation of the WCRP Wildlife Conservation Strategy is an approvable activity, which can be included in a WCRP Grant Proposal if reimbursement is sought.

Fiscal

Q32. What are the apportionment figures, and how long is this money available to the States for obligation?

A. The apportionment figures are attached (end of Appendix 2). The census figures for State populations are as of April 1, 2000, as approved by the Secretary of Commerce. This apportionment is available for obligation through September 30, 2003.

Q33. The legislation states that funds are available to the States for three years, or through FY 2003. As these monies were only appropriated for one year, however, does that fact require obligation of each State's entire apportionment during the first year of availability? A. No, these funds need only be obligated through Grant Agreement before the end of FY2003 (on or before September 30, 2003).

Q34. Should the States view the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account as a continuous ongoing revenue source?

A. No. There is no authorization for appropriation of funds beyond federal fiscal year 2001. There is activity in Congress at present that may result in additional and/or permanent funding for this or a related program.

Q35. What happens to WCRP monies for States that do not submit an approvable Comp Plan?

A. It is hoped, of course, that all States will establish their eligibility by submitting a Comp Plan. If they do not, the funds would be apportioned among the remaining eligible States.

Q36. Will interest accrue to WCRP funds, and if so to what account/purpose will it accrue?

A. Interest will accrue on the WCRP fund account, and will be handled in the same manner as other WR program fund balances (deposited into North American Wetlands Conservation account).

Q37. Will any Administrative Grants be funded with the 3% WCRP administrative funds?

A. No, it is anticipated that the Division of Federal Aid will utilize all of these funds to administer the WCRP.

Q38. Will the fiscal management procedures for administration of WCRP grants be available before grants are actually awarded?

A. The Federal Aid Information Management System (FAIMS) development team is working on appropriate revisions to various fiscal systems to accommodate this new program. It anticipates completion of any necessary system changes to accommodate WCRP prior to Grant approvals this spring.

Q39. Will States be able to charge direct costs for WCRP administration?

A. Yes, States will be able to charge WCRP administrative costs in the same manner that they currently do with the WR program.

Q40. The Act states that “The Secretary, under such regulations as he may prescribe, may advance funds representing the United States pro rata share or a project that is a segment of a wildlife conservation and restoration program, including funds to develop such program.” Can a State request an advance of funds, and if so, under what circumstances?

A. No regulations currently exist that could accommodate this.

Q41. Will a State be able to recover costs incurred in developing a WCRP Plan or in holding public participation meetings prior to the submission of its WCRP grants?

A. Yes, some costs incurred after the passage of the Act, but before a Grant Agreement is signed may be recovered. 50 CFR 80.15(c) allows reimbursement for costs incurred prior to the effective date of the grant agreement when specifically requested and provided for in the grant agreement, and 522 FW 1.11 B (2) (see the Federal Aid Handbook) lists as allowable “those activities required for project planning and development.”

Q42. What is the state-federal match ratio? What funds can be used as match for WCRP? Are in-kind contributions eligible, or must the match be in “cash?”

A. The state-federal match ratio will be 25/75. Allowable costs and match requirements will remain as they currently are for WR grants (refer to 43 CFR 12 and 50 CFR 80 for definitions of allowable costs and criteria for matching).

Q43. For the WCRP, how will prior sources of revenue be defined or interpreted?

A. Sec. 902 (h) of the Act deals with the diversion of funds. It will be assumed that “sources of revenue” are ongoing sources of funds for the State agency, and are not “one-time” or special fund sources which the State agency does not regularly (annually) receive.

Q44. How will FA interpret the provisions in the Act meant to protect prior funding sources when a State is anticipating “across-the-board” (all state agencies) budget cuts?

A. States will not be assumed to be in violation of the Act, if the State fish and wildlife agency anticipates or experiences general revenue budget cuts applied to all agencies within State government. The Act sought to protect State fish and wildlife agencies from being singled out for budget cuts which would offset or negate the positive impacts of this bill.

Q45. The WCRP legislation contained the phrases, “for expenses necessary to support activities that supplement, but not replace existing funding available to the States and territories from the sport fish restoration account and wildlife restoration account” and “such funds may be used for new programs and projects as well as to enhance existing programs and projects.” If states have used WR funds for nongame activities, can they now replace those funds with WCRP funds, thereby using the WR dollars only for game species?

A. The intent of the Act is to ensure that funds are not made unavailable to or otherwise taken away from the State fish and wildlife agency. The movement of funds within or among programs is within the State’s prerogative.

Grant Administration

Q46. Can States begin doing projects now that would be reimbursable prior to FA approval of the Comp Plan or Grants?

A. No.

Q47. Can States use the same program funding options for WCRP that are available under the WR and SFR programs?

A. Yes, grants may be funded through both options described in Section 6a of the Pittman-Robertson (WR) Act for WCRP funds. States may submit grant proposals for either the Comprehensive Management System Option (Section 6(a)(1) (currently includes the states of Wyoming, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Ohio, and Arizona’s fisheries program)) or the project-by-project option (Section 6(a)(2).

Q48. Where should the States send their Grant documents and who will approve them?

A. Grant documents (including Applications for Federal Assistance and Grant Agreements) should be submitted to the appropriate RO, where RO staff will review and approve them, as with other FA Grant Program documents. Any Grant documents sent to the WO will be forwarded immediately to the appropriate RO.

Q49. Are there any limitations on how much can be reimbursed for any particular activity under WCRP?

A. Yes, but only with respect to recreation. No more than 10 percent of a State’s WCRP apportionment may be used for wildlife-associated recreation.

Q50. How will compliance be handled for WCRP grants (e.g., National Historic Preservation Act, National Environmental Protection Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, etc.)? Who will do it and who will determine the compliance threshold?

A. Compliance will be handled the same way as it currently is for WR grants. The RO staff will work with each State to ensure this at the project level.

Q51. How does the Service's Ecological Services program fit into FA oversight of WCRP?

A. In the same manner as with the WR program, Ecological Services confirm compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and often review many NEPA documents.

Q52. With what accounting and administrative grant requirements must States comply in regard to WCRP?

A. As with other FA grant programs, allowable costs are governed by the guidance in 43 CFR 12, where reference is made to OMB Circular A-87, and to OMB Circular A-102 for State administrative grant requirements (both available at website www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars).

**Some WCRP
Grant Options
1, 2, 3 or 4**

**Note: Under options 1, 2 and 3
“Projects” must be described with a
Purpose/Need , Objectives , Expected Benefits,
Approach, Location and Estimated Cost**

**Grant
Proposal
(w AFA)**

**Wildlife
Conservation
and
Restoration**

**Grant
Agreement**

1. Wildlife Con-
servation Project
2. Wildlife Cons.
Education Project
3. Wildlife-Assoc
Recreation Project

1 Grant Proposal, 1 Grant Agreement, 3 Projects

Option 1

3 Grant Proposals, 3 Grant Agreements, with 1+ Projects each

**Grant
Proposal
(w AFA)**

**Wildlife
Conservation**
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**Grant
Agreement**

One or More
Wildlife
Conservation
Project(s)

**Grant
Proposal
(w AFA)**

**Wildlife
Conservation
Education**
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**Grant
Agreement**

One or More
Wildlife
Conservation
Education
Project(s)

Option 2

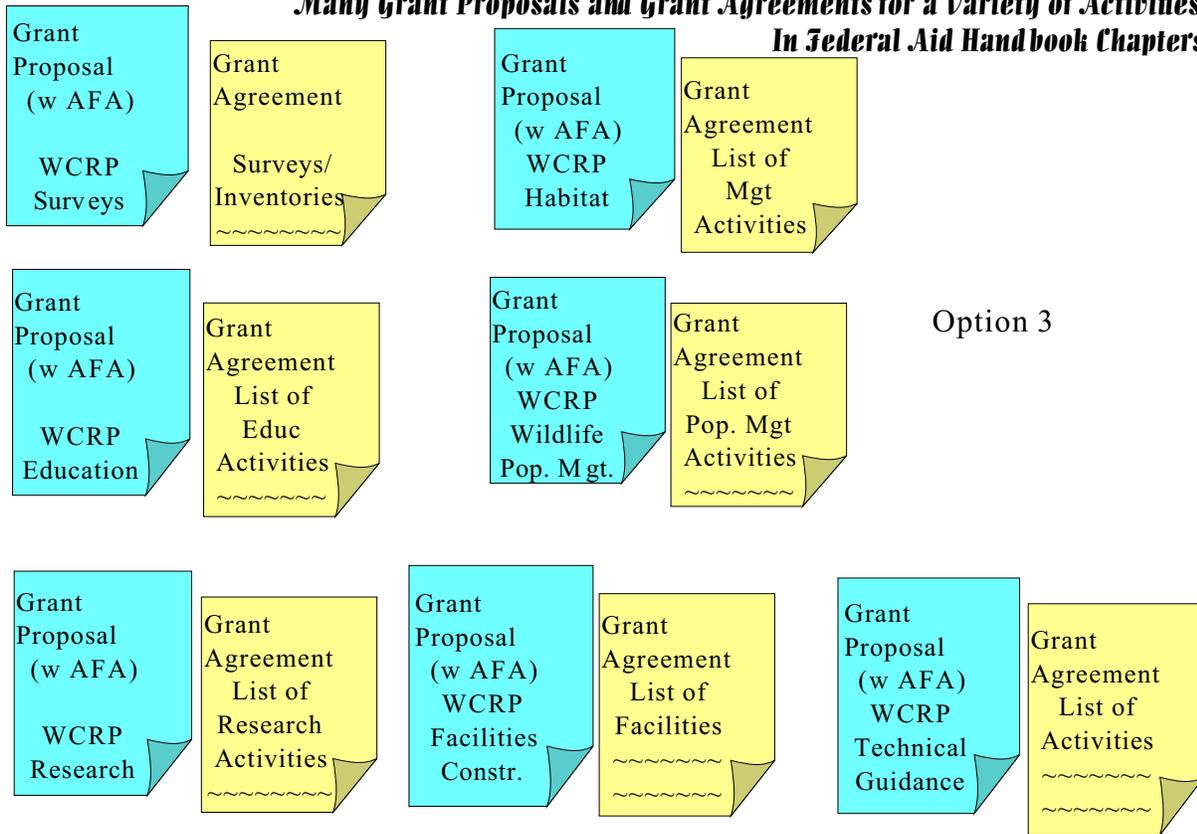
**Grant
Proposal
(w AFA)**

**Wildlife-
Associated
Recreation**
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**Grant
Agreement**

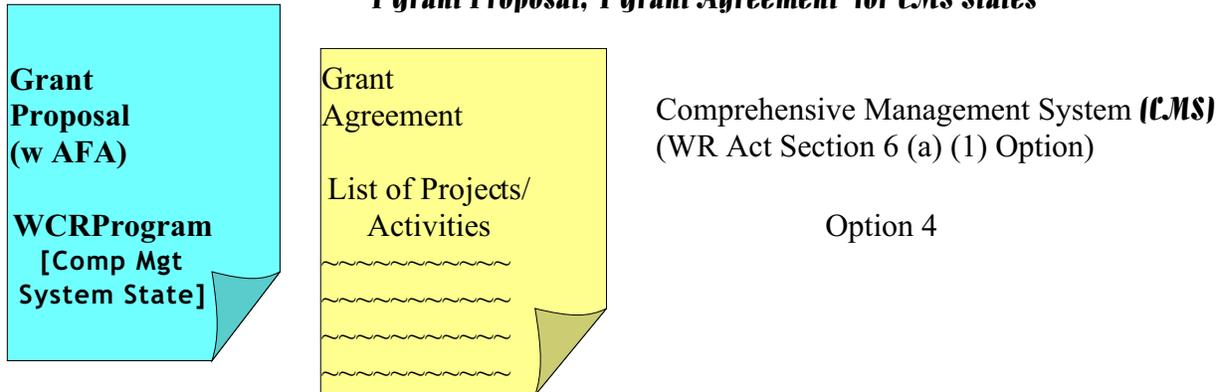
One or More
Wildlife-associated
Recreation
Project(s)

**Many Grant Proposals and Grant Agreements for a Variety of Activities as
In Federal Aid Handbook Chapters**



Option 3

1 Grant Proposal, 1 Grant Agreement for CMS States



Appendix 1.

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NOTE: BOLD TYPE WAS ADDED FOR EMPHASIS THROUGHOUT THE FOLLOWING TEXT TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR USERS TO LOCATE ITEMS THOUGHT TO BE OF SPECIAL INTEREST BY FEDERAL AID AND STATE COORDINATORS DURING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION PROGRAM.

TITLE IX—WILDLIFE, OCEAN AND COASTAL CONSERVATION**SEC. 901. WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION PLANNING**

For expenses necessary to support activities that supplement, but not replace, existing funding available to the States and territories from the sport fish restoration account and wildlife restoration account and shall be used for the development, revision, and implementation of wildlife conservation and restoration plans and programs, \$50,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That these funds may be used by a State or territory for the planning and implementation of its wildlife conservation and restoration program and wildlife conservation strategy, including wildlife conservation, wildlife conservation education, and wildlife-associated recreation projects: *Provided further*, That the Secretary, after deducting administrative expenses shall make the following apportionment from the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account: (A) to the District of Columbia and to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, each a sum equal to not more than one-half of 1 percent thereof; (B) to Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, each a sum equal to not more than one-fourth of 1 percent thereof: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall apportion the remaining amount in the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account for each year among the States in the following manner: (A) one-third of which is based on the ratio to which the land area of such State bears to the total land area of all such States; and, (B) two-thirds of which is based on the ratio to which the population of such State bears to the total population of all such States: *Provided further*, That the amounts apportioned under this paragraph shall be adjusted equitably so that no State shall be apportioned a sum which is less than 1 percent of the amount available for apportionment under this paragraph for any fiscal year or more than 5 percent of such amount: *Provided further*, That no State, territory or other jurisdiction shall receive a grant unless it has certified to the Service that it has in place, or has agreed to develop by a mutually agreed date certain, a wildlife conservation strategy and plan.

SEC. 902. WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION.

(a) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of this section are—

- (1) to extend financial and technical assistance to the States under the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Act for the benefit of a diverse array of wildlife and associated habitats, including species that are not hunted or fished, to fulfill unmet needs of wildlife within the States in recognition of the primary role of the States to conserve all wildlife;
- (2) to assure sound conservation policies through the development, revision, and implementation of a comprehensive wildlife conservation and restoration plan;
- (3) to encourage State fish and wildlife agencies to participate with the Federal Government, other State agencies, wildlife conservation organizations and outdoor recreation and conservation interests through cooperative planning and implementation of this title; and
- (4) to encourage State fish and wildlife agencies to provide for public involvement in the process of development and implementation of a wildlife conservation and restoration program.

Appendix 1 (continued).

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(b) REFERENCE TO LAW.—In this section, the term “Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act” means the Act of September 2, 1937 (16 U.S.C. 669 et seq.), commonly referred to as the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act or the Pittman-Robertson Act.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669a) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

“As used in this Act—

“(1) the term ‘conservation’ means the use of methods and procedures necessary or desirable to sustain healthy populations of wildlife, including all activities associated with scientific resources management such as research, census, monitoring of populations, acquisition, improvement and management of habitat, live trapping and transplantation, wildlife damage management, and periodic or total protection of a species or population, as well as the taking of individuals within wildlife stock or population if permitted by applicable State and Federal law;

“(2) the term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of the Interior;

“(3) the term ‘State fish and game department’ or ‘State fish and wildlife department’ means any department or division of department of another name, or commission, or official or officials, of a State empowered under its laws to exercise the functions ordinarily exercised by a State fish and game department or State fish and wildlife department.

“(4) **the term ‘wildlife’ means any species of wild, free-ranging fauna including fish,** and also fauna in captive breeding programs the object of which is to reintroduce individuals of a depleted indigenous species into previously occupied range;

“(5) **the term ‘wildlife-associated recreation’ means projects intended to meet the demand for outdoor activities associated with wildlife** including, but not limited to, hunting and fishing, wildlife observation and photography, such projects as construction or restoration of wildlife viewing areas, observation towers, blinds, platforms, land and water trails, water access, field trialing, trail heads, and access for such projects;

“(6) the term ‘wildlife conservation and restoration program’ means a program developed by a State fish and wildlife department and approved by the Secretary under section 304(d), the projects that constitute such a program, which may be implemented in whole or part through grants and contracts by a State to other State, Federal, or local agencies (including those that gather, evaluate, and disseminate information on wildlife and their habitats), wildlife conservation organizations, and outdoor recreation and conservation education entities from funds apportioned under this title, and maintenance of such projects;

“(7) **the term ‘wildlife conservation education’ means projects, including public outreach, intended to foster responsible natural resource stewardship;** and

“(8) the term ‘wildlife-restoration project’ includes the wildlife conservation and restoration program and means the selection, restoration, rehabilitation, and improvement of areas of land or water adaptable as feeding, resting, or breeding places for wildlife, including acquisition of such areas or estates or interests therein as are suitable or capable of being made suitable therefor, and the construction thereon or therein of such works as may be necessary to make them available for such purposes and also including such research into problems of wildlife management as may be necessary to efficient administration affecting wildlife

Appendix 1 (continued).

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resources, and such preliminary or incidental costs and expenses as may be incurred in and about such projects.”

(d) WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION ACCOUNT.—Section 3 of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by inserting “(1)” after “(a)”, and by adding at the end the following:

“(2) There is established in the Federal aid to wildlife restoration fund a subaccount to be known as the ‘Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account’. There are authorized to be appropriated for the purposes of the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account \$50,000,000 in fiscal year 2001 for apportionment in accordance with this Act to carry out State wildlife conservation and restoration programs. Further, interest on amounts transferred shall be treated in a manner consistent with 16 U.S.C. 669(b)(1).”;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(c)(1) Amounts transferred to the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account **shall supplement, but not replace, existing funds available to the States from the sport fish restoration account and wildlife restoration account and shall be used for the development, revision, and implementation of wildlife conservation and restoration programs and should be used to address the unmet needs for a diverse array of wildlife and associated habitats, including species that are not hunted or fished, for wildlife conservation, wildlife conservation education, and wildlife-associated recreation projects. Such funds may be used for new programs and projects as well as to enhance existing programs and projects.**

“(2) Funds may be used by a State or an Indian tribe for the planning and implementation of its wildlife conservation and restoration program and wildlife conservation strategy, as provided in sections 4(d) and (e) of this Act, including wildlife conservation, wildlife conservation education, and wildlife-associated recreation projects. Such funds may be used for new programs and projects as well as to enhance existing programs and projects.

“(3) Priority for funding from the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account shall be for those species with the greatest conservation need as defined by the State wildlife conservation and restoration program.

“(d) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of this section, with respect to amounts transferred to the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account, **so much of such amounts apportioned to any State for any fiscal year as remains unexpended at the close thereof shall remain available for obligation in that State until the close of the second succeeding fiscal year.**”.

(e) APPORTIONMENTS OF AMOUNTS.—Section 4 of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669c) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) APPORTIONMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION ACCOUNT.—

“(1) The Secretary of the Interior shall make the following apportionment from the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account:

“(A) to the District of Columbia and to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, each a sum equal to not more than one-half of 1 percent thereof.

“(B) to Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, each a sum equal to not more than one-fourth of 1 percent thereof.

Appendix 1 (continued).

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“(2)(A) The Secretary of the Interior, after making the apportionment under paragraph (1), shall apportion the remaining amount in the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account for each fiscal year among the States in the following manner:

“(i) one-third of which is based on the ratio to which the land area of such State bears to the total land area of all such States; and

“(ii) two-thirds of which is based on the ratio to which the population of such State bears to the total population of all such States.

“(B) The amounts apportioned under this paragraph shall be adjusted equitably so that no such State shall be apportioned a sum which is less than one percent of the amount available for apportionment under this paragraph for any fiscal year or more than five percent of such amount.

“(3) Of the amounts transferred to the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account, **not to exceed 3 percent shall be available for any Federal expenses incurred in the administration and execution of programs carried out** with such amounts.

“(d) WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION PROGRAMS.—

“(1) Any State, through its fish and wildlife department, may apply to the Secretary of the Interior for approval of a wildlife conservation and restoration program, or for funds from the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account, to develop a program. To apply, a State shall submit **a comprehensive plan that includes—**

“(A) **provisions vesting in the fish and wildlife department of the State overall responsibility and accountability** for the program;

“(B) **provisions for the development and implementation of—**

“(i) **wildlife conservation projects** that expand and support existing wildlife programs, giving appropriate consideration to all wildlife;

“(ii) **wildlife-associated recreation projects**; and

“(iii) **wildlife conservation education projects** pursuant to programs under section 8(a); and

“(C) **provisions to ensure public participation** in the development, revision, and implementation of projects and programs required under this paragraph.

“(D) WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STRATEGY.—**Within five years of the date of the initial apportionment, develop and begin implementation of a wildlife conservation strategy** based upon the best available and appropriate scientific information and data that—

“(i) uses such information on the distribution and abundance of species of wildlife, including low population and declining species as the State fish and wildlife department deems appropriate, that are indicative of the diversity and health of wildlife of the State;

“(ii) identifies the extent and condition of wildlife habitats and community types essential to conservation of species identified under paragraph (1);

“(iii) identifies the problems which may adversely affect the species identified under paragraph (1) or their habitats, and provides for priority research and surveys to identify factors which may assist in restoration and more effective conservation of such species and their habitats;

Appendix 1 (continued).

“(iv) determines those actions which should be taken to conserve the species identified under paragraph (1) and their habitats and establishes priorities for implementing such conservation actions;

“(v) provides for periodic monitoring of species identified under paragraph (1) and their habitats and the effectiveness of the conservation actions determined under paragraph (4), and for adapting conservation actions as appropriate to respond to new information or changing conditions;

“(vi) provides for the review of the State wildlife conservation strategy and, if appropriate, revision at intervals of not more than ten years;

“(vii) provides for coordination to the extent feasible the State fish and wildlife department, during the development, implementation, review, and revision of the wildlife conservation strategy, with Federal, State, and local agencies and Indian tribes that manage significant areas of land or water within the State, or administer programs that significantly affect the conservation of species identified under paragraph (1) or their habitats.

“(2) **A State shall provide an opportunity for public participation in the development of the comprehensive plan** required under paragraph (1).

“(3) If the Secretary finds that the comprehensive plan submitted by a State complies with paragraph (1), the Secretary shall approve the wildlife conservation and restoration program of the State and set aside from the apportionment to the State made pursuant to subsection (c) an amount that shall not exceed 75 percent of the estimated cost of developing and implementing the program.

“(4)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), after the Secretary approves a State’s wildlife conservation and restoration program, the Secretary may make payments on a project that is a segment of the State’s wildlife conservation and restoration program as the project progresses. Such payments, including previous payments on the project, if any, shall not be more than the United States pro rata share of such project. The Secretary, under such regulations as he may prescribe, may advance funds representing the United States pro rata share of a project that is a segment of a wildlife conservation and restoration program, including funds to develop such program.

“(B) **Not more than 10 percent of the amounts apportioned to each State under this section for a State’s wildlife conservation and restoration program may be used for wildlife-associated recreation.**

“(5) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘State’ shall include the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.’’

(f) FACA.—Coordination with State fish and wildlife agency personnel or with personnel of other State agencies pursuant to the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act or the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act shall not be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.). Except for the preceding sentence, **the provisions of this title relate solely to wildlife conservation and restoration programs and shall not be construed to affect the provisions of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act relating to wildlife restoration projects or the provisions of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act relating to fish restoration and management projects.**

*Appendix 1 (continued).**114 STAT. 2762A-118 PUBLIC LAW 106-553—APPENDIX B*

(g) EDUCATION.—Section 8(a) of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669g(a)) is amended by adding the following at the end thereof: “Funds from the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account may be used for a wildlife conservation education program, except that **no such funds may be used for education efforts, projects, or programs that promote or encourage opposition to the regulated taking of wildlife.**”

(h) PROHIBITION AGAINST DIVERSION.—**No designated State agency shall be eligible to receive matching funds under this title if sources of revenue available to it after January 1, 2000, for conservation of wildlife are diverted for any purpose other than the administration of the designated State agency**, it being the intention of Congress that funds available to States under this title be added to revenues from existing State sources and not serve as a substitute for revenues from such sources. Such revenues shall include interest, dividends, or other income earned on the foregoing.

(i) NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT.—Section 7(c) of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4406(c)) is amended by striking “\$30,000,000” and inserting “\$50,000,000”.

Appendix 2.

FWS/AMBS/FA001842

To: State Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Secretary, Department of Natural Resources of the
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
Governor of Guam
Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands
Governor of American Samoa
Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mayor of the District of Columbia

The Title IX of the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 established a Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program. This Program is intended to provide grant funds to States and U.S. Territories to enhance fish and wildlife conservation and restoration. Enclosed is the process the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will use to ensure eligibility and to distribute the apportionments identified for each State and Territory in the Act.

The Service views this as an outstanding enhancement to the existing Federal Aid Programs. In fact, this Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program is established as a subaccount under the existing Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act. However, the funding authority is different. Unlike other funding in the Federal Aid Program, the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program comes from annual appropriation sources and requires Congressional action on an annual basis to continue.

The process described in the enclosed implements the statute. Of particular note is that eligibility for these funds is driven by the presentation of a plan by the State or Territory and a commitment to develop a conservation strategy within 5 years. We need to receive your plan presentation by April 16, 2001, in order to begin the distribution of the funds to eligible States or Territories as early as possible.

We look forward to working with you to make this a successful program that will provide conservation benefits for our citizens into the future.

Sincerely,

Acting DIRECTOR

Appendix 2 (continued).

Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account FY 2001 (\$50 Million)

A. SUMMARY: Title IX of Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Act (Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account) appropriated funds to the Secretary of Interior to provide grants to States and U.S. Territories to enhance fish and wildlife conservation and restoration.

B. DATES: Due dates for States/Territories and the Service are as follows:

1. State/Territory Comprehensive Plans are due by April 16, 2001, to the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service. These may be mailed to the address listed in "G".

2. The Service will determine compliance with the statutory criteria and initiate apportionments by May 14, 2001 of Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program funds to those States/Territories whose Plan satisfies the requirements of the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program. The Service will work with those States/Territories whose submissions initially do not meet the statutory criteria in fulfilling these requirements, and initial apportionments will then be made to these States once the criteria are met.

C. PROGRAM INFORMATION:

The Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Act provides \$50 million in FY 2001 by creating and authorizing a subaccount under the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act for a Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program, a formula-based apportionment to States and U.S. Territories similar to that in the existing Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs. These funds are to be "used for the development, revision, and implementation of wildlife conservation and restoration plans and programs ... for the planning and implementation of its wildlife conservation and restoration program and wildlife conservation strategy, including wildlife conservation, wildlife conservation education, and wildlife-associated recreation projects. Priority for funding from the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration account shall be for those species with the greatest conservation need as defined by the State wildlife conservation and restoration program."

D. THE STATE PLANS AND ELIGIBILITY:

1. States and U.S. Territories are to submit a Comprehensive Plan by April 16, 2001. Submission of this information constitutes a commitment by the State/Territory to develop and begin implementing within five years, a Wildlife Conservation Strategy that will facilitate the identification of the greatest conservation needs. Each Plan must include:

a. a description of the required statutory elements substantiating the authority and the capability of the State/Territory to deliver the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program as follows:

Appendix 2 (continued).

(1) The State/Territory's wildlife agency must have the authority to develop, implement and be accountable for the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program. Under this requirement, a State should cite existing statutory or constitutional authority to protect and manage wildlife. Such authority should include authority that covers both game and nongame species as well as authority to undertake wildlife-associated recreation projects and wildlife-conservation education projects.

(2) If the fish and wildlife agency does not have authority for any of these items but another agency does, the wildlife agency can still apply for program eligibility with written delegation of authority for overall responsibility and accountability for the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program from the other agency.

b. Provisions for the development and implementation of:

(1) New wildlife conservation projects and/or projects that supplement or enhance existing wildlife programs, with appropriate consideration to all wildlife and priority for those species with the greatest conservation need, as defined by the State or U.S. Territory's program. A State/Territory should describe generally how it determines or will determine which species are in the most need of assistance, and give a brief description of how particular species benefit directly from a program or project.

(2) Wildlife-associated recreation projects; including a general description of how the new funds will be used to develop and implement a program to address wildlife-associated recreation needs; and,

(3) Wildlife conservation education projects; including a general description of how the new funds will be used to develop and implement a program to address wildlife conservation education needs. No funds from the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program subaccount may be used for wildlife conservation education efforts, projects, or programs that promote or encourage opposition to the regulated taking of wildlife.

c. Provisions to ensure public participation in the development, revision, and implementation of projects and programs.

E. Development of a Wildlife Conservation Strategy:

1. Within five years of the date of their initial apportionment, the States and Territories must develop and begin implementation of a wildlife conservation strategy based upon the best available scientific information that:

a. uses such information on the distribution and abundance of species of wildlife, including low populations and declining species as the State/Territory's fish and wildlife department deems appropriate, that are indicative of the diversity and health of wildlife of the State;

Appendix 2 (continued).

- b.** identifies the extent and condition of wildlife habitats and community types essential to the conservation of species identified under section a;
- c.** identifies the problems that may adversely affect the species under section a. or their habitats, and provides for priority research and surveys to identify factors that may help in restoration and more effective conservation of such species and their habitats;
- d.** determines those actions that they should take to conserve species identified under section a. and their habitats and establishes priorities for implementing such conservation actions;
- e.** provides for periodic monitoring of such species under section a. and their habitats and the effectiveness of the conservation actions taken under section d, and for adapting conservation actions as appropriate to respond to new information or changing conditions;
- f.** provides for the review of the State/Territory wildlife conservation strategy and, if appropriate, revision at intervals of not more than 10 years; and
- g.** during the development, implementation, review, and revision of the wildlife conservation strategy, provides for coordination to the extent feasible by the fish and wildlife department with Federal, State, and local agencies and Indian Tribes that manage significant areas of land or water within the State or Territory, or administer programs that significantly affect the conservation of species or their habitats as identified in a Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program Plan.

F. General Considerations:

- 1.** The Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program contains two program elements not explicitly found in the existing Wildlife Restoration portion of the Federal Aid program, “wildlife-associated recreation” and “wildlife conservation education.” Wildlife-associated recreation projects are those intended to meet the demand for outdoor activities associated with wildlife. This includes, but is not limited to, such activities as hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and wildlife photography, field trials, and projects such as construction or restoration of wildlife viewing areas, observation towers, blinds or platforms, land and water trails, trail heads, water access, and access for such activities and projects. Wildlife conservation education projects are intended to foster responsible natural resources stewardship and includes public outreach projects.
- 2.** States and Territories shall not use Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program funds to replace traditional Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds, but may supplement them. These funds do not qualify to be used as a “non-Federal match”. Funds may be used for new programs, including development, revision and implementation of the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program and projects and enhancement of existing programs and projects. Priority for funding shall be for those species with the greatest conservation need as defined by the State or Territory’s program. An agency is not eligible if “sources of revenue” available to it for the conservation of wildlife after January 1, 2000, are diverted to purposes other than administration of the State or Territory’s fish and wildlife agency.

Appendix 2 (continued).

3. The Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program is statutorily established as a subaccount of the existing Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Fund. Except as expressly provided otherwise, the actual disbursement of funds for the Federal share under this program shall be subject to the existing rules and regulations of, the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program. When an agency submits its Comprehensive Plan, it may also submit standard grant application documents. These documents will specify what work the State intends to undertake with its apportionment. A State, though, may choose to wait until after it submits a Comprehensive Plan to submit these documents. Not more than 3 percent of the funds in the account are available for administration and execution of the program. Funding to the States under this program will remain available for obligation for three fiscal years. Any funds unobligated by the end of FY 2003 will be added to the amounts available to all states under the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program and be apportioned by the formula.

4. For the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program the statutory formula for apportionment is based on one-third on the ratio that the land area of such State bears to the total land area of all States and two-thirds on the ratio to which the population of such a State bears to the overall population of all States with no State receiving more than 5 percent or less than 1 percent of the amount available. The District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico will receive one-half of 1 percent and Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will receive one-fourth of 1 percent. A copy of the draft apportionments for Fiscal Year 2001 is attached.

5. The Federal share of funded programs or projects may not exceed 75 percent.

6. No more than 10 percent of the amount apportioned to a State or Territory may be used for wildlife-associated recreation.

7. Until funds are made available to the State or Territory agency, they will be held in an interest bearing account with interest accruing to the North American Wetlands Conservation Account.

G. ADDRESSES:

1. Mail Comprehensive Plan and applicable grant documents to: Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, c/o Kris E. LaMontagne, Chief, Division of Federal Aid, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 140, Arlington, VA 22203

2. For Further Information Contact: Kris E. LaMontagne, Chief, Division of Federal Aid, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 140, Arlington, VA 22203; 703-358-2156.

Apportionments for \$50 Million Wildlife Cons. Grants: C-J-S Appropriation

State	Land Area (Sq. Miles)**	Population*	\$ Amount
ALABAMA	51,718	4,447,100	751,915
ALASKA	587,875	626,932	2,419,665
ARIZONA	114,006	5,130,632	1,146,103
ARKANSAS	53,182	2,673,400	565,290
CALIFORNIA	158,647	33,871,648	2,419,665
COLORADO	104,100	4,301,261	1,004,536
CONNECTICUT	5,006	3,405,565	483,933
DELAWARE	2,026	783,600	483,933
FLORIDA	58,620	15,982,378	2,049,840
GEORGIA	58,930	8,186,453	1,198,166
HAWAII	6,459	1,211,537	483,933
IDAHO	83,574	1,293,953	570,141
ILLINOIS	56,343	12,419,293	1,648,185
INDIANA	36,185	6,080,485	851,045
IOWA	56,276	2,926,324	608,836
KANSAS	82,282	2,688,418	716,141
KENTUCKY	40,411	4,041,769	649,576
LOUISIANA	47,719	4,468,976	733,805
MAINE	33,128	1,274,923	483,933
MARYLAND	10,455	5,296,486	633,308
MASSACHUSETTS	8,262	6,349,097	737,272
MICHIGAN	58,513	9,938,444	1,387,784
MINNESOTA	84,397	4,919,479	971,175
MISSISSIPPI	47,695	2,844,658	555,900
MISSOURI	69,709	5,595,211	969,823
MONTANA	147,046	902,195	852,710
NEBRASKA	77,359	1,711,263	583,949
NEVADA	110,567	1,998,257	785,631
NEW HAMPSHIRE	9,283	1,235,786	483,933
NEW JERSEY	7,790	8,414,350	960,894
NEW MEXICO	121,598	1,819,046	822,577
NEW YORK	49,122	18,976,457	2,328,843
NORTH CAROLINA	52,672	8,049,313	1,151,069
NORTH DAKOTA	70,704	642,200	483,933
OHIO	41,329	11,353,140	1,454,513
OKLAHOMA	69,903	3,450,654	736,095
OREGON	97,052	3,421,399	872,097
PENNSYLVANIA	45,310	12,281,054	1,576,485
RHODE ISLAND	1,213	1,048,319	483,933
SOUTH CAROLINA	31,117	4,012,012	598,665
SOUTH DAKOTA	77,121	754,844	483,933
TENNESSEE	42,145	5,689,283	838,787
TEXAS	266,873	20,851,820	2,419,665
UTAH	84,904	2,233,169	679,758
VERMONT	9,615	608,827	483,933
VIRGINIA	40,598	7,078,515	982,907
WASHINGTON	68,126	5,894,121	994,422
WEST VIRGINIA	24,232	1,808,344	483,933
WISCONSIN	56,145	5,363,675	874,933
WYOMING	97,819	493,782	483,933
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA			241,967
PUERTO RICO			241,967
GUAM			120,983
VIRGIN ISLANDS			120,983
AMERICAN SAMOA			120,983
N. MARIANA ISLANDS			120,983
Subtotal	3,615,161	280,849,847	48,393,300
Administration			1,496,700
Total***			49,890,000

<p>* Population Figures are the April 1, 2000 U.S. Census Bureau Figures</p> <p>** Land areas include the land and inland waters of each State (do not include Great Lakes and Coastal waters) from the U.S. Statistical Abstract (Census Bureau) 1997</p> <p>*** This total reflects a reduction of \$110,000 from the original \$50,000,000 as a result of a .22% recission</p>
